

**STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT**

# **Basham Press Release**

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## **SEN. BASHAM ENCOURAGES SENIORS TO GET FREE EYE EXAMS**

LANSING- State Sen. Ray Basham today encouraged local seniors suffering from diabetes to take full advantage of a program that provides free eye examinations to qualified patients. The Taylor Democrat said that early detection is often critical in the successful treatment of certain vision disorders.

“Senior citizens suffering from diabetes are at risk of developing a very serious vision disorder called diabetic retinopathy,” said Basham. “Early detection and treatment of diabetic retinopathy can reduce the risk of blindness by as much as 95 percent.”

The free eye examinations are being offered by EyeCare America’s Diabetes EyeCare Program. The year-round program offers free exams and up to a year of treatment with no out-of-pocket expense to qualified patients.

“Our vision is one of our most precious gifts,” said Basham. “I encourage all seniors suffering from diabetes to speak to their physician or take advantage of the free eye exam program.”

The program is targeted toward seniors who have not seen an ophthalmologist in over three years. Seniors who have insurance through an HMO or the VA are not eligible. For a referral, interested persons may call, 1-800-272-3937.

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